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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED: 01/18/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _Oct 26, 2000_ .

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _____3_____ month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) _1-33 and 48-59_ is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) _1-33 and 48-59_ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☒ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _Jun 2, 2000_ is ☒approved ☐disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____ .

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____ .

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _7, 9-12_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- *SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES* ---

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1.   The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 6/2/2000. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Objections

2.   Claims 20 and 31 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 20, line 3, "she" should be --sheet-- . In claim 31, line 5, "not to all", should be --not all-- Appropriate correction is required.

3.   Claim 47 is dependant on claim 46, which belongs to the restricted group of claims and therefore is restricted as well.

Specification

4.   The amendment to page 12, line 16, wherein "cross sectional" would be changed to --cross-sectional--, was not entered because it was the wrong line.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6.   Claims 1-33 and 48-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Marlin et al (US 5,778,377).

As set forth in claim 1, Marlin et al disclose a displaying method of managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information from a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying acquired information of the selected network devices, (Marlin does this on the GUI display, see figs. 5 and 8), said method comprising: a first display step of acquiring and displaying a first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; see col. 15, lines 1-24, and a second display step of acquiring and displaying a second information on the device window in a case where a user has requested display of different information related to the selected network device; see col. 15, lines 54-66. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 2, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus for managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information from a selected network device of

the plurality of network devices, and displaying acquiring information of the selected network

device (Marlin does this on the GUI display, see figs. 5 and 8), comprising: a first display unit for

acquiring and displaying a first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a

window allocated to the selected network device; see col. 15, lines 1-24, and a second display unit

for acquiring and displaying a second information on the device window in a case where a user

has requested display of different information related to the selected network device).

As set forth in claim 3, Marlin et al disclose a computer-readable recording medium

storing a program for implementing a managing method of managing a plurality of network

devices, an acquiring method of acquiring information from a selected network device of the

plurality of network devices, and a displaying method of displaying acquired information, said the

program (Marlin does this on the GUI display, see figs. 5 and 8), comprising: program code for a

first display step of acquiring and displaying a first information on an initial screen of a device

window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; and program code for a

second display step of acquiring and displaying a second information on the device window in a

case where a user has requested display of different information related to the selected network

device. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of

the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the

status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of

the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and

col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 4, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method comprising:

an initial sheet information acquisition and display step of acquiring and displaying initial sheet

information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to individual

network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis; (Marlin's GUI display), see figs. 5 and 8, and

col. 14, lines 15-56, a separate sheet information list making step of making a list of separate

sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet information acquired and displayed in said

initial sheet information acquisition and display step; see col. 16, lines 45-64, (the secondary

menus), an acquisition sheet information decision step of deciding a sheet information list to

acquire from separate sheet information lists made in said separate sheet information list making

step (the secondary menus); a different sheet information acquisition and display step of, when it

is determined that an entry has been made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet

information, acquiring and displaying different types of newly requested sheet information on a

device window opened in said initial sheet information acquisition and display step (each result is

flagged); an all sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding whether all sheet

information has been acquired; a single sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding,

when it is found in said all sheet information acquisition decision step that not all information has

been acquired, whether all current acquisition of sheet information has ended based on a result of

said acquisition sheet information decision step; a sheet information list status change step of

changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when it is decided in

said single sheet information acquisition decision step that all current acquisition of sheet

information has ended; and a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network

device information when it is decided in said single sheet information acquisition step that not all

current acquisition of sheet information has ended. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that

contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled

and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the

menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and

updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 5, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus

comprising: an initial sheet information acquisition and display unit for acquiring and displaying

initial sheet information on a n initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to

individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis; (Marlin's GUI display), see figs. 5

and 8, and col. 14, lines 15-56, a separate sheet information list making unit for making a list of

separate sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet information acquired and displayed by

said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit; see col. 16, lines 45-63 (the secondary

menus) an acquisition sheet information decision unit for deciding a sheet information list to

acquire from separate sheet information lists made by said separate sheet information list making

unit; a different sheet acquisition and display unit for, when it is determined that an entry has been

made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, acquiring and

displaying different types of newly requested sheet information on a device window opened by

said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit; (the secondary menus) an all sheet

information acquisition decision unit for deciding whether all sheet information has been acquired;

a single sheet information acquisition decision unit for deciding, when it is found by said all sheet

information acquisition decision unit that not all sheet information has been acquired, whether all

current acquisition of sheet information has ended based on a result from said acquisition sheet

information decision unit (each result is flagged); a sheet information list status change unit for

changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when decided by said

single sheet information acquisition decision unit that all current acquisition of sheet information

has ended; and a network device information acquisition unit for acquiring network device

information when it is decided by said single sheet information acquisition nit that nit that not all

current acquisition of sheet information has ended. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that

contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled

and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the

menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and

updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 6, Marlin et al disclose a computer-readable recording medium

storing a program for implementing a network device control method, the program comprising:

program code for an initial sheet information acquisition and display step of acquiring and

displaying initial sheet information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window

allocated to individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis; (Marlin's GUI display),

see figs. 5 and 8, and col. 14, lines 15-56, program code for a separate sheet information list

making step of making a list of separate sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet

information acquired and displayed in said initial sheet information acquisition and display step;

see col. 16, lines 45-63 (the secondary menu); program code for an acquisition sheet information

decision step of deciding a sheet information list to acquire from separate sheet information lists

made in the separate sheet information list making step; program code for a different sheet

information acquisition and display step of, when it is determined that an entry has been made by a

user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, acquiring and displaying different

types of newly requested sheet information on a device window opened in the initial sheet

information acquisition and display step program code for an all sheet information acquisition

decision step of deciding whether all sheet information has been acquired; program code for a

single sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding, when it is found in the all sheet

information acquisition decision step that not all information has been acquired, whether

acquisition of all current sheet information has ended based on a result of the acquisition sheet

information decision step; program code for a sheet information list status change step of

changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when decided in the

single sheet information acquisition decision step that all current acquisition of sheet information

has ended; and program code for a network device information acquisition step of acquiring

network device information when it is decided in the single sheet information acquisition step that

not all current acquisition of sheet information has ended. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that

contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled

and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the

menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and

updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 7, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein said

initial sheet information acquisition and display step comprises: an initial sheet information

specifying step of specifying initial sheet information; a sheet information list making step of

making a sheet information list from initial sheet information specified in the initial sheet

information specifying step; and an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and

displaying information for the network device based on the sheet information list made in the

sheet information list making step; see col. 14, lines 15-41 (The display list of Marlin).

As set forth in claim 8, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein

said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit comprises: an initial sheet information

specifying unit for specifying initial sheet information; a sheet information list making unit for

making a sheet information list from initial sheet information specified by the initial sheet

information specifying unit; and an information acquisition unit for requesting, acquiring, and

displaying information for the network device based on the sheet information list made in the

sheet information list making unit; see col. 14, lines 15-41 (The display list of Marlin).

As set forth in claim 9, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet

information acquisition and display step comprises: an initial sheet information specifying step of

specifying initial sheet information; a sheet information list making step of making a sheet

information list from initial sheet information specified in the initial sheet information specifying step; and an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and displaying information for the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making step; see col. 14, lines 15-41 (The display list of Marlin).

As set forth in claim 10, Marlin et al disclose a method wherein the user specifies initial sheet information on an initial sheet information screen in the initial sheet information specifying step (when the user enters information).

As set forth in claim 11, Marlin et al disclose a method wherein the initial sheet information specifying step comprises: a network device status identifier step of determining a status of the network device, and a status initial sheet set step of setting a displayed initial sheet information by way of the network device status determined in the network device status identifier step (each component is polled for its status).

As set forth in claim 12, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the initial sheet information specifying unit specifies the initial sheet information in a fixed pattern (columns and rows).

As set forth in claim 13, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the initial sheet information specifying unit specifies the initial sheet information by utilizing an initial sheet information identifier to identify initial sheet information held in an initialize file stored in a memory of the network device (it flags and updates by time and date, thereby maintaining a current record of the status of the components).

As set forth in claim 14, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein in order to hold sheet information in the initialize file, another network device control apparatus, used immediately prior to said network device control apparatus, holds the identifier for the sheet information acquired and displayed most recently in its initialize file (the cache).

As set forth in claim 15, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the user specifies the initial sheet information to the initial sheet information specifying unit (the entering of the information).

As set forth in claim 16, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the initial sheet information specifying unit comprises: a network device stats identifier unit for determining a status of the network device, and a status initial sheet set unit for setting a displayed initial sheet information by way of the network device status determined by the network device status identifier unit (each component is polled for its status).

As set forth in claim 17, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet information specifying step specifies the initial sheet information in a fixed pattern (the rows and columns).

As set forth in claim 18, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet information specifying step specifies the initial sheet information by utilizing an initial sheet information identifier to identify initial sheet information held in an initialize file stored in said recording medium (it flags and updates by time and date, thereby maintaining a current record of the status of the components).

As set forth in claim 19, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein, in order to

hold sheet information in the initialize file, a network device control apparatus used immediately

prior to a current network device control apparatus holds the identifier for sheet information

acquired and displayed most recently in its initialize file (the cache).

As set forth in claim 20, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the user

specifies initial sheet information on an initial sheet information on screen the initial sheet

information specifying step (when the user enters the initial data).

As set forth in claim 21, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet

information specifying step comprises: a network device status identifier step for determining a

status of the network device, and a status initial sheet set step for setting displayed initial sheet

information by way of the network device status determined in the network device status identifier

step (each component is polled for its status).

As set forth in claim 22, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein

said initial separate sheet information acquisition and display step comprises: a separate sheet

information specifying step of specifying separate sheet information; a sheet information list

making step of making a sheet information list from separate sheet information specified in the

separate sheet information specifying step; and an information acquisition step of requesting,

acquiring, and displaying information of the network device based on the sheet information list

made in the sheet information list making step (retrieving information from the cache) see col. 14.

lines 62-67, col. 16, lines 51-53.

As set forth in claim 23, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit comprises: a separate sheet information specifying unit for specifying separate sheet information; a sheet information list making unit for making a sheet information list from separate sheet information specified using the separate sheet information specifying unit; and an information acquisition unit for requesting, acquiring, and displaying information of the network device based on the sheet information list made using the sheet information list making unit (retrieving information from the cache) see col. 14, lines 62-67, col. 16, lines 51-53.

As set forth in claim 24, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet information acquisition and display step comprises: a separate sheet information specifying step of specifying separate sheet information; a sheet information list making step of making a sheet information list from separate sheet information specified in the separate sheet information specifying step; and an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and displaying information of the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making step (retrieving information from the cache); see col. 14, lines 62-67, col. 16, lines 51-53.

As set forth in claim 25, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information (the polling of the device); an instant display step of displaying a portion of the information beforehand, based on

currently held sheet information (the system can update columns and rows separately), when it is

decided not to perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet information compulsory acquisition

decision step; a display all sheet information step of deciding whether or not all sheet information

was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet information

compulsory acquisition decision step (whether or not the display was updated); a network device

information acquisition step of acquiring network device information; a network device holding

decision step of deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information is being

held (part of initialization process; see col. 15, lines 10-24); a cache comparison step of

comparing a cache value with a network device information value newly acquired in said network

device information acquisition step when it is determined to hold information in cache in the

network device holding decision step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network

device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the

newly acquired network device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is

decided a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision step; a network device

information display step of displaying on the device window, the cache value held in the cache

value hold step (each of the devices is flagged with the time and date stamp, this provides the

basis of determining the status of the polling, etc); a sheet list status change step of changing a

status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed-status in order to

decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step;

an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the

device window when it is decided that all network device information was displayed in the display

all sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update time when it is

decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of

determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set in the timer update set

step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when

the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor

step; see col. 15, lines 1-24.

As set forth 26, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the

information acquisition unit comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit

for deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information (the polling of the device);

an instant display unit for displaying a portion of the information beforehand, based on currently

held sheet information (the system can update columns and rows separately), when it is decided

not to perform compulsory acquisition using the sheet information compulsory acquisition

decision unit; a display all sheet information unit for deciding whether or not all sheet information

was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition using the sheet information

compulsory acquisition decision unit; (whether or not the display was updated) a network device

information acquisition unit for acquiring network device information; a network device holding

decision unit for deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information

(hereafter called "cache") is being held (part of initialization process; see col. 15, lines 10-24); a

cache comparison unit for comparing a cache value with a network device information value

newly acquired the network device information acquisition unit when it is determined to hold

information in cache using the network device holding decision unit; a cache value hold unit for

holding the acquire network device value as a cache value when results of the comparison of the

cache value with the newly acquired network device information value are determined to differ,

and also when it is decided a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision unit; a

network device information display unit for displaying on the device window, the cache value held

using the cache value hold unit; a sheet list status change unit for changing a status of currently

displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed-status in order to decide whether to

display all network device information in the display all sheet information unit; an update decision

unit for deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it

is decided that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information

unit; a timer update set unit for setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform

automatic updates using the update decision unit; a timer update monitor unit for determining

whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set using the timer update set unit; and an

update stop monitor unit for monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has

not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor unit; see col. 15,

lines 1-24.

As set forth in claim 27, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the sheet

information acquisition comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of

deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information (the polling of the device); an

instant display step of displaying a portion of the information beforehand (the system can update

columns and rows separately), based on currently held sheet information, when it is decided not to

perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step; a

display all sheet information step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed

when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet information compulsory

acquisition decision step; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network

device information; a network device holding decision step of deciding whether or not previously

acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being held (part of initialization

process; see col. 15, lines 10-24); a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a

network device information value newly acquired in the network device acquisition step when it is

decided to hold information in cache in the network device holding decision step; a cache value

hold step of holding the acquired network device value as a cache value when results of the

comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired network device information value are

determined to differ, and also when it is decided a cache is not being held in the network device

holding decision step; (whether or not the display was updated) a network device information

display step of displaying on the device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step;

a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet

list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device

information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether

or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is decided that all network

device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update set step

of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the automatic

update decision step; a time update monitor step of monitoring whether or not time is up on the

automatic update timer set in the time update set step; and an update stop monitor step of

monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic

update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step; see col. 15, lines 1-24.

As set forth in claim 28, Marlin et al disclose a network device control wherein the instant

display step comprises: a sheet information list decision step of deciding whether each of a cache

value enable decision step, a network device information display step, and a sheet information list

status change step were implemented on a currently held sheet information list (elements are

flagged based on when they were last updated); a cache value enable decision step of deciding

whether information in the sheet information list was previously acquired when it is decided in the

sheet information list decision step that the cache value enable decision step, the network device

information display step, and the sheet information list status change step were not implemented

for the entire sheet information list (inherent in the log-in procedure); see col. 5, lines 35-39; a

network device information display of displaying a cache value of certain information on the

device window when it is determined that the information was previously acquired in the cache

value enable decision step; and a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently

displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status (this can be ascertained based

on the value of the status timer).

As set forth in claim 29, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein

the instant display unit comprises: a sheet information list decision unit for deciding whether each

of a cache value enable decision unit, a network device information display unit, and a sheet

information list status change unit were implemented on the currently held sheet information list

(elements are flagged based on when they were last updated); a cache value enable decision unit

for deciding whether information in the sheet information list was previously acquired when it is

determined using the sheet information list decision unit that the cache value enable decision unit,

the network device information display unit, and the sheet information list status change unit were

not implemented for the entire sheet information list (inherent in the log-in procedure); see col. 5,

lines 35-39; a network device information list; a network device information display unit for

displaying a cache value of certain information on the device window when it is determined that

the information was previously acquired using the cache value enable decision unit; and a sheet

list status change unit for changing the status of currently displayed information on the sheet list

to a display-completed status (this can be ascertained based on the value of the status timer).

As set forth in claim 30, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the instant

display step comprises: a sheet information list decision step of deciding whether each of a cache

value enable decision step, a network device information display step, and a sheet information list

status change step were implemented on a currently held sheet information list (elements are

flagged based on when they were last updated); a cache value enable decision step of deciding

whether information in the sheet information list was previously acquired when it is determined in

the sheet information list decision step that the cache value enable decision step, the network

device information display step, and the sheet information list status change step were not

implemented for the entire sheet information list (inherent in the log-in procedure); see col. 5,

lines 35-39; a network device information display step of displaying a cache value of certain

information on the device window when it is determined that the information was previously

acquired in the cache value enable decision step; and a sheet list status change step of changing a

status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status (this can

be ascertained based on the value of the status timer).

As set forth in claim 31, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein

the information acquisition step comprises: a display all sheet information decision step of

deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed (part of the updating procedure); a

network device information hold decision step of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is

determined in the display all sheet information decision step that not all of the information was

displayed; a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to

compulsorily acquire sheet information; a network device information acquisition step of

acquiring information on the network device when it is determined in the sheet information

compulsory acquisition decision step to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache

comparison step of comparing a cache value with a device information value newly acquired by

the network device information acquisition step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired

network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value

with the newly acquired device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is

determined in the network device information holding decision step that previously acquired

network device information is not being held; a network device information display step of

displaying on the network device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step; a

sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet

list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device

information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether

or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is determined that all

network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update

set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the update

decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the

automatic update timer set in the time update set step; and an update stop monitor step of

monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic

update timer monitored in the time update monitor step. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that

contains columns and rows displaying the status of the netowork devices, these devices are polled

and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devives. Furthermore, each of the

menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and

updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 32, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein

the information acquisition unit comprises: a display all sheet information decision unit for

deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed (part of the display device); a network

device information hold decision unit of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is

determined using the display all sheet information decision unit that not all of the information was

displayed; a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit for deciding whether or not to

compulsorily acquire sheet information (by compulsorily the examiner assumes automatically

update); a network device information acquisition unit for acquiring information on the network

device when it is determined using the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit to

compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison unit for comparing a cache value with

a device information value newly acquired by the network device information acquisition unit; a

cache value hold unit for holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when

results of the comparison of he cache value with the newly acquired device information value are

determined to differ, and also when it is decided using the network device holding decision unit

previously acquired network device information is not being held; a network device information

display unit for displaying on the network device window the cache value held using the cache

value hold unit; a sheet list status change unit for changing a status of currently displayed

information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all

network device information using the display all sheet information unit; an update decision unit

for deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is

determined that all network device information was displayed using the display all sheet

information unit; a timer update set unit for setting an automatic update timer when it is decided

to perform updates using the update decision unit; a timer update monitor unit for determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set using the timer update set unit; and an update stop monitor unit for monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored using the time update monitor unit. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the netowork devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devives. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 33, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a display all sheet information decision step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed (whether everything was updated); a network device information hold decision step of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all sheet information decision step that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring information on the network device when it is determined in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a device information value newly acquired in the network device information acquisition step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a

cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device

information value are determined to differ, and also when it is determined in the network device

holding decision step that previously acquired network device information is not being held; a

network device information display step of displaying on the network device window the cache

value held in the cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of

currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide

whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step; an

update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device

window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed in the display all

sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is

decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of

determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update time set in the timer update set

step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when

the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor

step. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of

the netowork devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the

status of the devives. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of

the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and

col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 48, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein

the information acquisition step comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision

step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; an instant display step

of displaying a portion of the information beforehand based on a currently held sheet information,

when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition decision step; a display all sheet

information step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed when it is decided

to perform compulsory acquisition decision step; a network device information acquisition step of

acquiring network device information; a network device holding decision step of deciding whether

or not previously acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being held; a

cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a network device information value newly

acquired in the network device acquisition step when it is decided to hold information in cache in

the network device holding decision step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network

device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the

newly acquired networked device information value are determined to differ, also when it is

decided that a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision step; a network

device information display step of displaying on the device window the cache value held in the

cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed

information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all

network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of

deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is

decided that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step;

a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates

in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up

on the automatic update timer set in the timer update set step; and an update stop monitor step of

monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic

update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that

contains columns and rows displaying the status of the netowork devices, these devices are polled

and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devives. Furthermore, each of the

menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and

updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 49, Marlin et al disclose a network control device apparatus wherein

the information acquisition unit comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision

unit of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; an instant display unit

for displaying a portion of the information beforehand based on a currently held sheet information,

when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition using the sheet information compulsory

acquisition decision unit; a display all sheet information unit for deciding whether or not all sheet

information was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition using the sheet

information compulsory acquisition decision unit; a network device information acquisition unit

for acquiring network device information; a network device holding decision unit for deciding

whether or not previously acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being

held; a cache comparison unit for comparing a cache value with a network device information

value newly acquired using the network device acquisition unit when it is decided to hold

information in cache using the network device holding decision unit; a cache value hold unit for

holding the acquired network device value as a cache value when results of the comparison of the

cache value with the newly acquired network device information value are determined to differ,

and also when it is decided a cache is not being held using the network device holding decision

unit; a network device information display unit for displaying on the device window the cache

value held using the cache value hold unit; a sheet list status change unit for changing a status of

currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide

whether to display all network device information using the display all sheet information unit; an

update decision unit for deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device

window when it is decided that all network device information was displayed using the display all

sheet information unit; a timer update set unit for setting an automatic update timer when it is

decided to perform automatic updates using the update decision unit; a timer update monitor unit

for determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set using the timer

update set unit; and an update stop monitor unit for monitoring whether updating has stopped or

not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored using the timer

update monitor unit (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying

the status of the netowork devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used

to update the status of the devives. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu

for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 50, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; an instant display step of displaying a portion of the information beforehand based on a currently held sheet information, when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition decision step; a display all sheet information step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition decision step; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information; a network device holding decision step of deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being held; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a network device information value newly acquired in the network device acquisition step when it is decided to hold information in cache in the network device holding decision step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired networked device information value are determined to differ, also when it is decided that a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision step; a network device information display step of displaying on the device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all

network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of

deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is

decided that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step;

a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates

in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up

on the automatic update timer set in the timer update set step; and an update stop monitor step of

monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic

update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that

contains columns and rows displaying the status of the netowork devices, these devices are polled

and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devives. Furthermore, each of the

menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and

updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 51, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein

the instant display step comprises: a sheet information list decision step of deciding whether each

of a cache value enable decision step, a network device information display step, and a sheet

information list status change step were implemented on a currently held sheet information list; a

cache value enable decision step of deciding whether information in the sheet information list was

previously acquired, when it is determined in the sheet information list decision step that the cache

value enable decision step, the network device information display step, and the sheet information

list status change step were not implemented for the entire sheet information list; a network

device information display step of displaying a cache value of certain information on the device

window when it is determined that the information was previously acquired in the cache value

enable decision step; and a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed

information on the sheet list to a display completed-status; see col. 15, lines 1-66, Marlin changes

and updates the status information on the display screen.

As set forth in claim 52, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein

the instant display unit comprises: a sheet information list decision unit of deciding whether each

of a cache value enable decision unit, a network device information display unit, and a sheet

information list status change unit were implemented on a currently held sheet information list; a

cache value enable decision unit for deciding whether information in the sheet information list was

previously acquired, when it is determined in the sheet information list decision unit that the cache

value enable decision unit, the network device information display unit, and the sheet information

list status change unit were not implemented for the entire sheet information list; a network device

information display unit for displaying a cache value of certain information on the device window

when it is determined that the information was previously acquired using the cache value enable

decision unit; and a sheet list status change step for changing a status of currently displayed

information on the sheet list to a display completed-status; see col. 15, lines 1-66, Marlin changes

and updates the status information on the display screen.

As set forth in claim 53, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the instant

display step comprises: a sheet information list decision step of deciding whether each of a cache

value enable decision step, a network device information display step, and a sheet information list

status change step were implemented on a currently held sheet information list; a cache value

enable decision step of deciding whether information in the sheet information list was previously

acquired, when it is determined in the sheet information list decision step that the cache value

enable decision step, the network device information display step, and the sheet information list

status change step were not implemented for the entire sheet information list; a network device

information display step of displaying a cache value of certain information on the device window

when it is determined that the information was previously acquired in the cache value enable

decision step; and a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed

information on the sheet list to a display completed-status; see col. 15, lines 1-66, Marlin changes

and updates the status information on the display screen.

As set forth in claim 54, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein

the information acquisition step comprises: a display all sheet information decision step of

deciding whether or not to all sheet information was displayed; a network device information hold

decision step of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all

sheet information decision step that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information

compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet

information; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring information on the

network device when it is determined in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision

step to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache

value with a device information value newly acquired in the network device information

acquisition step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a

cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device

information value are determined to differ, and also when it is determined in the network device

holding decision step that previously acquired network device information is not being held; a

network device information display step of displaying on the network device window the cache

value held in the cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of

currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide

whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step; an

update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device

window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed in the display all

sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is

decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of

determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update time set in the time update set

step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when

the time has not run out the automatic update timer monitored in the time update monitor step

(this can be ascertained based on the value of the status timer); see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines

50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 55, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein

the information acquisition unit comprises: a display all sheet information decision unit for

deciding whether or not to all sheet information was displayed; a network device information hold

decision unit for deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all

sheet information decision unit that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information

compulsory acquisition unit for deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet

information; a network device information acquisition unit for acquiring information on the

network device when it is determined using the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision

unit to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison unit for comparing a cache

value with a device information value newly acquired using the network device information

acquisition step; a cache value hold unit for holding the acquired network device information as a

cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device

information value are determined to differ, and also when it is determined using the network

device holding decision unit that previously acquired network device information is not being

held; a network device information display unit for displaying on the network device window the

cache value held using the cache value hold unit; a sheet list status change unit for changing a

status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to

decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information unit;

an update decision unit for deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the

device window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed in the

display all sheet information unit; a timer update set unit for setting an automatic update timer

when it is decided to perform updates using the update decision unit; and a timer update monitor

unit for determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update time set in the time update

set unit; and an update stop monitor unit of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when

the time has not run out the automatic update timer monitored using the time update monitor unit

(this can be ascertained based on the value of the status timer); see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines

50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 56, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the information

acquisition step comprises: a display all sheet information decision step of deciding whether or not

to all sheet information was displayed; a network device information hold decision step of

deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all sheet information

decision step that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information compulsory

acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a

network device information acquisition step of acquiring information on the network device when

it is determined in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step to compulsorily

acquire sheet information; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a device

information value newly acquired in the network device information acquisition step; a cache

value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results

of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device information value are

determined to differ, and also when it is determined in the network device holding decision step

that previously acquired network device information is not being held; a network device

information display step of displaying on the network device window the cache value held in the

cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed

information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all

network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of

deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is

determined that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information

step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform

updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not

time is up on the automatic update time set in the time update set step; and an update stop

monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out

the automatic update timer monitored in the time update monitor step (this can be ascertained

based on the value of the status timer); see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines

1-66).

As set forth in claim 57, Marlin et al disclose a method of managing a plurality of network

devices, acquiring information of a selected network device of the plurality of network devices,

and displaying the acquired information, said method comprising: a first display step of acquiring

a first information of a selected network device and of displaying the first information on a device

window; and a second display step of acquiring a second information of the selected network

device from the selected network device and of displaying the second information on the device

window when a user has requested display of the second information. (Marlin specifically displays

a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices

are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore,

each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be

displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 58, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus for

managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information of a selected network device of

the plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, said apparatus

comprising: a first display unit for acquiring a first information of a selected network device and

displaying the first information on a device window; and a second display unit for acquiring a

second information of the selected network device from the selected network device and

displaying the second information on the device window when a user has requested display of the

second information. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying

the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to

update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for

each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-

66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 59, Marlin et al disclose a computer-readable recording medium

storing a program fro managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information from a

selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired

information, the program comprising: program code for a first display step of acquiring a first

information of a selected network device and of displaying the first information on a device

window; and program code of a second display step of acquiring a second information of the

selected network device from the selected network device and of displaying the second

information on the device window when a user has requested display of the second information

(Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the

network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the

status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of

the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and

col. 15, lines 1-66).

Conclusion

7.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

Garvey et al (US 5,774,667) disclose a method and apparatus for managing parameter

settings for multiple network device.

Sakai et al (US 5,935,217) disclose a network system in which a plurality of image

processing apparatuses are connected.

Chen et al (US 5,684,945) disclose a system and method for maintaining performance data

in a data processing system.

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Tod Kupstas whose telephone number is (703) 305-2655.

The fax phone number for this art unit is (703) 308-6743. Any inquiry of a general nature

or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the technology

center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tod Kupstas

Jan. 10, 2001

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